

REMARKS

Claim rejections – 35 USC §112

It is submitted that the rejection under 35 USC §112 clearly does not apply to the new independent claim 16.

Claim rejections – 35 USC §102

It is respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed in claim 16 is clearly patentably distinguished from the Kocher reference (U.S. Patent no 6,188,766).

Kocher describes an apparatus and method for confirming, timestamping and archiving printer and telecopier documents. A user sends a document via facsimile to a trusted timestamping service (TTS). The TTS computes a timestamp and digitally archives the document with the timestamp. The TTS then sends a submission receipt via facsimile to the user, confirming the transaction (column 3, lines 33-55). The receipt includes a copy (typically reduced size) of the document images so that the user can confirm that the document images were received properly. The receipt also includes a document identification value DIV or telecopier transmission identifier TTI to identify the document (column 8, lines 22-30). When a requester wishes to verify the integrity of the document, the requester contacts the TTS with the DIV/TTI of the document, for example by faxing the first page of the submission receipt (column 10, lines 10-15). The TTS uses this DIV/TTI to retrieve the archived document, and verifies the timestamp on the archived digital document (column 10, lines 27-46). The TTS then returns a timestamp verification to the requester, by fax for example. The timestamp verification includes a human-readable indication of when the document was originally timestamped, and an image of the document (column 10, lines 47-53).

There is clearly no suggestion in Kocher of any method for authenticating a printed test certificate, as claimed in the present application. In particular, there is no suggestion of a method wherein an authentication authority checks whether a test certificate producer is authorized to perform a test and, if so, cryptographically generates an authentication code and sends the authentication code back to the test certificate producer. Moreover, there is clearly no suggestion in Kocher that, upon presentation of a printed test certificate for authentication, a certificate checker cryptographically checks the authentication code against information in the printed test certificate to determine whether the printed test certificate is authentic.

Regarding claims 3 - 5, it is respectfully submitted that there is absolutely no suggestion in Kocher of including a pre-printed serial number in a test certificate, and of using this number in generating an authentication code. It is agreed that Kocher (column 7, lines 31-33) describes the use of serial numbers and other information contained in control messages sent during facsimile transmission to identify the document sender, and (column 8 line 58) the use of serial numbers (e.g. the total number of documents and pages received by the TTS from the document's sender) to help the service later show whether a set of documents received from a particular user during a particular time period is complete. However, there is absolutely no suggestion that these serial numbers are pre-printed on any document. On the contrary, it is submitted that these serial numbers are clearly generated by the system when the user submits the document.

Regarding claims 6 – 10 , it is respectfully submitted that Kocher clearly does not teach the steps of generating a check code from information in a printed test certificate, and then comparing the check code with an authentication code in the printed test certificate.

Claim rejections – 35 USC §103

Claim 12 was rejected as being unpatentable over Kocher in view of the Verisign Certification Practice Statement version 1.2.

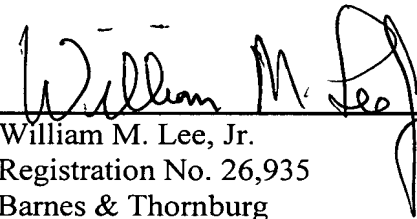
Claim 12 has been cancelled, and so it is no longer necessary to consider this rejection.

Conclusion

In summary, it is submitted that this application is now clearly in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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